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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS: UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, which covers the period 1995-1996.

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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) 1995-1996

Summary

The biennium 1995-1996 saw considerable progress in the implementation of the Institute's work programme. During this period substantive contributions were also made to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and Habitat II. More than 46 books containing findings from the continuing programme of research were published or are in press. The Institute has established two Home Pages on the Internet which provide unprecedented opportunities for dissemination of research findings. The overall financial situation of the Institute remains satisfactory as both core and project funding increased in 1995 and 1996.

Contents

	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1-8
CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN CONFERENCES	9-46
A. World Summit for Social Development	10-33
1. States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalization	14-16
2. Rethinking Social Development	17-19
3. Economic Restructuring and Social Policy	20-25
4. Follow-up to the Social Summit	26-33
B. Fourth World Conference on Women	34-40
1. Gendering Macro-Economic Policies	36-37
2. Gender Mainstreaming: Obstacles and Opportunities	38-40
C. Habitat II	41-46
1. Social Integration at the Grassroots: The Urban or "Pavement" Dimension	42
2. Volunteer Action and Local Democracy: A Partnership for a Better Urban Future	43-46
CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH	47-94
A. The Challenge of Rebuilding War-torn Societies	47-69
1. War-torn Societies Project	47-61
2. Vulnerability and Coping Strategies in Cambodia	62-69
B. Technical Co-operation and Women's Lives: Integrating Gender into Development Policy	70-82

C. Environment, Sustainable Development and Social Change 83-94
1. Social and Political Dimensions of Environmental Protection Programmes and Projects 83-89
2. The Social and Environmental Impact of National Parks and Protected Areas in Developing Countries 90-94

PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION 95-102
A. Publications 95-97
B. Dissemination 98-102

ADVISORY AND CONSULTANCY WORK 103-106

FINANCIAL SITUATION 107-109

INTRODUCTION

1. UNRISD was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth". Since the 1960s, the objectives, approach and scope of UNRISD work have evolved. Early work of the Institute focused on improving social statistics and exploring the relationship between social and economic development, particularly the assumption that social development flowed automatically from economic growth and modernization.

2. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, UNRISD adopted a broader concept of social development, to embrace not only traditional social policy and planning concerns such as heath, education and social statistics but also issues relating to inequality, discrimination, social movements and participation. The Institute sought to promote a more holistic and multidisciplinary approach to social development research that emphasized political economy aspects concerning the nature of society's decision-making processes, its often conflicting social forces and the question of who wins and who loses in processes of economic and social change. These issues were very much at the forefront of the major UNRISD programmes of that time dealing with the social effects of the Green Revolution, the role of co-operatives in development, refugees, popular participation and problems of food security.

3. Since the late 1980s, both the scope and objectives of UNRISD work have broadened considerably. By 1993, the number of programmes had doubled and approximately 70 countries were the focus of UNRISD research. While the Institute's main objectives have continued to be the promotion of cross-country comparative research on critical problems and issues of social development, as well as the promotion of research capacity in developing countries, UNRISD has diversified its role in response to the changing demands and opportunities of the 1990s.

4. The Institute has become more involved in applied research, responding directly to the needs of policy makers and the donor community. So called "action-research", involving policy dialogue and consensus-building, is an important feature of two of the Institute's largest programmes, dealing with ways of integrating gender into development planning and re-building war-torn societies. UNRISD thus places considerable emphasis on the need to bring together a diverse range of social and political actors in discussion on key social development issues. Through workshops, seminars and conferences, the Institute attempts to act as an international forum for the analysis of development issues and, in so doing, to bring together policy makers, donors, scholars, NGOs and grassroots activists.

5. A focus on applied research has led the Institute to support the world conferences on development issues that have taken place in Rio de Janeiro, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul in recent years. The Institute also collaborates on a more regular basis with other UN agencies, for instance, by participating in high-level advisory groups, preparing reports and undertaking joint research programmes. Similar advisory work is carried out with a range of other multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities. In recent years the Institute has undertaken research at the request of DANIDA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on such issues as the social effects of environmental degradation and United Nations peace-keeping missions.

6. The present report covers the activities of UNRISD in 1995 and 1996. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Secretary General's bulletin (ST/SGB/126, 1 August 1963), in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

7. Over the past two years there has been considerable progress in the implementation of the Institute's work programme. A number of major research projects initiated a few years ago have virtually been completed: Agricultural Expansion and Tropical Forests; Crisis, Adjustment and Social Change; Ethnic Conflict and Development; Participation and Changes in Property Relations in Communist and Post-Communist Societies; Political Violence and Social Movements; Refugees, Returnees and Local Society: Interaction and Development; the Social Dynamics of Deforestation in Developing Countries; the Socio-Economic and Political Impact of Production, Trade and Use of Illicit Narcotic Drugs; and Women, Environment and Population. In addition to reports, articles, and Discussion Papers, these projects have produced a number of important books.

8. Highlights of the past two years include UNRISD work in connection with the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and Habitat II. Building on the momentum established by the Institute's work for these conferences, a number of new projects have been launched or are being developed. At the same time, there has been substantial progress in the implementation of recent research programmes including the War-torn Societies Project, Technical Co-operation and Women's Lives, and Environment, Sustainable Development and Social Change. The activities of these projects, in addition to selected examples of other ongoing work, are reported below.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN CONFERENCES

9. Over the years, the Institute has sought to provide substantive contributions to UN conferences. In this connection, UNRISD mobilizes its worldwide network of scholars, activists and development practitioners in an effort to (a) promote reflection on major social issues debated at UN conferences, (b) channel new information and ideas into the preparatory processes, and (c) build public support for successful conferences. In recent years, several of the Institute's research programmes have been designed to support UN conferences. Output from these projects is circulated and discussed in a number of forums, including conferences and seminars, electronic networks, and national and international news media. In addition, the Briefing Paper and Occasional Paper series examine issues central to UN conference themes.

A. WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

10. As the only institution within the United Nations devoted exclusively to conducting research on issues related to social development, UNRISD undertook a major programme of work meant to provide a substantive contribution to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995). Four international seminars, as well as a number of smaller conferences, roundtable discussions and press briefings held during the PrepComs and the Social Summit made UNRISD findings and recommendations directly available to those involved in the negotiations over the Summit's draft Declaration and Programme of Action.

11. Of the three items on the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development — the reduction of poverty, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration — UNRISD focused primarily on the last. The main areas of work included:

- The publication of a major report for the Social Summit, entitled **States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalization**;

- The organization of an international conference on **Rethinking Social Development**, at which some of the most important analysts of social issues presented their views regarding the nature of major contemporary social changes and the fundamental forces and processes driving these changes;

- A research project on **Economic Restructuring and Social Policy**, evaluating new types of social programmes being implemented in the context of structural adjustment measures in developing countries;

- A research project and international seminar on **The Future of the Welfare State**, examining the dynamics of, and prospects for, the welfare state;

- An **International Seminar on Economic Restructuring and Social Policy**, discussing social policy formulation in the context of globalization in industrialized, transition and developing economies;

- A research project and international seminar on **Ethnic Diversity and Public Policies**, examining policy responses to ethnic conflict and exploring ways of encouraging accommodation in ethnically diverse societies;

- A research project on **Social Integration at the Grassroots: The Urban Dimension**, investigating the role of community action and organizations in fostering social integration in the large cities of the North and the South; and

- Two seminars, organized in co-operation with French research and government agencies, to strengthen national efforts for preparation and follow-up to the Social Summit, with special consideration of the problems of sub-Saharan Africa.

12. UNRISD work for the Social Summit provided an opportunity for synthesizing and distilling the results from several of the Institute's major research projects undertaken in recent years, including those on structural adjustment, environment and development, ethnic conflict, political violence, and illicit drugs. In addition, new work was undertaken in several fields, including social integration, globalization, institutional reform, transnational corporations and crime.

13. The Institute embarked on an intensive programme of publication and dissemination of research findings and recommendations, which, besides the publication of **States of Disarray**, the UNRISD report for the Social Summit, included the launching of two new publication series for the Social Summit — Briefing Papers and Occasional Papers — as well as conference reports, Discussion Papers, journal articles and commercial publications. Selected areas of UNRISD work for the Social Summit are highlighted below:

1. States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalization

14. Early on in the Social Summit preparatory process it became clear that it was important to look at the linkages between major social problems and trends associated with "globalization". UNRISD took up the challenge of providing a comprehensive analysis of some of these problems. By drawing on its research programmes concerned with structural adjustment, ethnic conflict, illicit narcotic drugs and rebuilding war-torn societies, and by commissioning papers from specialists on many other issues, the Institute prepared the report **States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalization**. The report, which was unveiled at the Social Summit, was written to be accessible to a broad audience. It was produced in English, French and Spanish and has subsequently been translated into Arabic, Chinese and Korean.

15. Part I of the report discusses the momentous changes associated with "globalization" that have radically altered the scale and nature of social problems. Part II explores the linkages between globalization and key social issues such as migration, crime, drugs, ethnic conflict and the reconstruction of war-torn societies. Part III examines the impact of globalization on institutions at local, national and international levels and suggests a path of institutional reform that is needed to guide the process of globalization in a more cohesive direction.

16. What seems clear from the analysis presented in the report is that international institutions are likely to play a more important role than in the past in influencing global social, political and economic trends. For this reason, the concluding chapter explores the issue of globalization and citizenship, and considers how far the polarizing, disintegrating effects of globalization can be offset through new approaches, developed at the international level, that reaffirm the basic political, social and economic rights of all people.

2. Rethinking Social Development

17. During the final two days of the Summit (11-12 March 1995), when heads of state gathered in Copenhagen, UNRISD sponsored an international conference on **Rethinking Social Development**. Ten people, internationally recognized for the importance and originality of their ideas, were asked to speak at the conference, taking up problematic aspects of contemporary socio-economic change and "rethinking" these problems creatively. This group of distinguished social scientists and writers included Ralf Dahrendorf, Amitai Etzioni, Johan Galtung, Anthony Giddens, Eric Hobsbawm, Fatema Mernissi, Tetsuo Najita, Emma Rothschild, Wole Soyinka and Tatyana Tolstaya.

18. Five conference essays have been published by UNRISD in its Discussion Paper series. In addition, the full set of conference essays appeared as a special edition of **Development and Change,** entitled "Social Futures, Global Visions", in April 1996, and was also published in book form by Blackwell.

19. Spanning academic disciplines and continents, the essays paint a complicated picture of social change. They warn us to take seriously the relation between global economic competition and authoritarianism. They note new forms of global dependence, in which decisions affecting the livelihood of millions are taken by supranational interests only minimally accountable to any broad political constituency. They examine the future of the state and the shifting balance between individual rights and collective obligations in different national contexts. They highlight the urgent need to reconsider the meaning of work in modern society. And they suggest strategies for dealing with new forms of risk and improving quality of life.

3. Economic Restructuring and Social Policy

20. Two UNRISD projects were designed to encourage more informed dialogue on issues of social protection and solidarity in a rapidly changing global economic environment. The project on **The Future of the Welfare State** examined problems of ensuring basic social protection within different kinds of industrial market economies, while the project on **Economic Restructuring and New Social Policies** focused on similar issues in the developing world.

21. One of the most general, but perhaps also the most useful, points brought out in the course of the first project was the great diversity of problems and responses associated with welfare state reform in the advanced industrial democracies. While countries in Scandinavia, Continental Western Europe and North America have traditionally approached the provision of welfare in different ways, they have confronted similar challenges over the past few decades: not only sluggish growth of the world economy and the challenge of global economic integration, but also the relative ageing of the population and fundamental changes in social structure.

22. Although many challenges are similar, they have been met in different ways by the countries under study. Along the continuum between defending universal welfare provisions based on citizenship, on the one hand, and leaving personal security largely to the working of the market, on the other, most countries are making compromises based upon their historical experiences and current political situations. As the overview report of the project noted, it is hard to overemphasize the importance of understanding existing

social and political institutions in determining the final "mix" of measures that is feasible. In the last analysis, institutions matter more than balance sheets.

23. Research on social policies in the context of economic restructuring in developing countries examined the rationale behind social adjustment packages — or, as they are commonly called, "social safety nets" — which usually involve both targeted social services and benefits, and various types of project-based "social funds". The project involved case studies of 13 such programmes that have been introduced to mitigate the social costs of adjustment. The research suggested that project-based approaches to social service provisioning in the context of adjustment have a number of limitations. In general, they are only able to reach a small proportion of the population in need, and they have even greater difficulty reaching the poorest sectors of society.

24. The findings of these two projects were channelled into the Summit's preparatory process through an international seminar on **Economic Restructuring and Social Policy**, the preliminary report of which was presented to participants at the third PrepCom, and through a panel on **Social Adjustment and Social Policy**, organized during the PrepCom itself. Findings were also discussed at the seminar on **The Future of the Welfare State in a Global Perspective: An International Debate**, jointly hosted by UNRISD, the Danish Institute of Social Research and the Foreign Ministry of Denmark as one of the official events of the Social Summit.

25. A range of publications have emerged from these two projects, including two Occasional Papers, three Discussion Papers, one conference report and two commercially published books. Selected case studies of the project on **Economic Restructuring and Social Policy** appeared as a special issue of **The European Journal of Development Research** in June 1995. This was subsequently published as a book by Frank Cass. **Welfare States in Transition** was co-published by UNRISD and Sage in 1996.

4. Follow-up to the Social Summit

• After the Social Summit: Implementing the Programme of Action

26. The meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva, during June and July 1995, constituted an early and important element in the official follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. Taking advantage of the presence at ECOSOC of many of the principal actors in the Summit process, UNRISD organized a half-day seminar in the Palais des Nations on 4 July 1995.

27. Presentations by speakers from United Nations agencies, national governments and non-governmental organizations highlighted differences between major actors in the Summit process and pointed to issues that must be resolved during the implementation process. These issues include questions of institutional responsibility within the United Nations itself; problems of designing an adequate system of monitoring compliance with the commitments assumed at Copenhagen; the difficulty of reconciling commitment to free-market economic growth with increased social spending in a globalizing world; and the likelihood that governments in the world's poorest countries will not have the resources to assume national responsibility for alleviating poverty and unemployment. There was also considerable discussion of the shortcomings of non-governmental organizations and a general feeling that too much was expected of "civil society" in the implementation process.

28. A report on the UNRISD seminar — including information on the post-Summit initiatives of key organizations not present at the meeting — was published in September 1995 and has been widely distributed.

- **Social Development and Public Policy**

29. The Social Summit stressed the importance of sound social and economic policies in speedy elimination of poverty and in attaining health and educational goals. The Institute has recently started a research project on **Social Development and Public Policy**, which seeks to understand the reasons behind the superior social development of some developing countries. The available data show that some countries have distinctly superior social indicators for their level of per capita income. Social development for the purpose of this study is defined in terms of health and education indicators and the proportion of the population living below a poverty line. Researchers will examine the quality of available data and the evolution of social indicators over time. The core of the study will consist of an analysis of the factors behind the superior social performance of the selected countries. The analysis will be conducted at three interrelated levels -- historical and political factors, amount and efficiency in use of resources for social development and configuration of institutional arrangements.

30. Research is being carried out on Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Kerala, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, whose achievements in the field of health and education have aroused a great deal of interest and discussion. The contribution of this project, based on secondary material, lies in using a common and integrated framework in analysing their experiences. It is hoped that the lessons drawn from the experiences of these countries will be useful to low income countries seeking to eliminate illiteracy, provide universal basic education and reduce infant mortality. The preliminary versions of some of the case studies were presented at a seminar in Ottawa in May 1996, organized jointly by UNRISD, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

- **Globalization and Citizenship**

31. UNRISD work for the Social Summit highlighted the importance of trends towards increasing global interdependence in many spheres, from the macro-economic to the social and cultural. Publications, including **States of Disarray** and other Briefing or Occasional Papers for the Summit, explored the contradictory implications of "globalization", which creates new opportunities for co-operation on an international scale at the same time as it poses extraordinary challenges to established forms of solidarity and social protection. The question, noted in the final pages of **States of Disarray**, is whether the polarizing, disintegrating effects of globalization can be offset through new approaches, developed at an international level, that reaffirm the basic political, social and economic rights of all people.

32. What are the institutional and political requisites for strengthening basic mechanisms of social solidarity at the international level? How can the rapid and virtually unrestrained expansion of world markets — within a highly oligopolistic transnational framework — be tempered through commitment to some forms of redistribution on a global scale? How can people everywhere co-operate effectively to assert and defend certain basic human rights? The very practical issues raised by apparently idealistic questions like these lie at the heart of any effort to implement the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.

33. The political, economic and institutional challenges posed by the need to fashion a workable social charter in a globalizing world will be discussed at an **UNRISD Conference on Globalization and Citizenship**, to be held in Geneva on 9-11 December 1996. The event will include public lectures and panels, as well as smaller working sessions.

B. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

34. Of the ten critical areas of concern highlighted by the Commission on the Status of Women for attention at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), two were the focus of UNRISD work in preparation for the Conference:

- inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself; and

- insufficient institutional mechanisms to promote the advancement of women.

35. One of the Institute's main contributions to the Conference was an Occasional Paper series which reported some of the findings of the project on **Technical Co-operation and Women's Lives: Integrating Gender into Development Policy**, discussed below. Among the themes explored by these papers are gender and micro-enterprise development, women's employment in trade-related industry and services, and the gender aspects of population policy. Several other papers provide critical reviews of the way in which gender issues have been taken up by different policy-making institutions — including multilateral and bilateral agencies and developing country governments. An edited collection on gender and institutions, including revised versions of these papers, is under preparation for publication with a commercial publisher.

1. Gendering Macro-Economic Policies: Concepts and Institutions

36. On 6 September 1995, a roundtable discussion, entitled **Gendering Macro-economic Policies: Concepts and Institutions**, was hosted by UNRISD at the NGO Forum in Huairou. The panellists were researchers working in the area of feminist economics. Their presentations attested to the considerable progress that feminist economists have made not only in challenging macro-economic models from a gender perspective, but also in presenting alternative models that do incorporate gender as an analytical category. Participants outlined the extent to which apparently "genderless" macro-economic outcomes, such as agricultural supply response, expenditure patterns and growth levels, are in fact deeply influenced by the way in which conjugal and gender relations are organized in different societies.

37. In the course of the presentations frequent reference was made to ways of feeding this emerging body of analytical work into the policy process and the obstacles that hinder progress at both the national and international levels. While highlighting the important advocacy role of gender lobbies, participants spoke of the danger of a potential split between feminist advocates and feminist economists owing, at least in part, to the technical language used by the latter.

2. Gender Mainstreaming: Obstacles and Opportunities

38. A second panel, jointly sponsored by UNRISD, UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), entitled **Gender Mainstreaming: Obstacles and Opportunities**, was held on 9 September 1995 at the official conference in Beijing. The panellists included gender researchers and practitioners, who critically assessed progress in institutionalizing gender issues within different policy-making bodies over the past decade.

39. Participants outlined some of the advances that have been made in promoting attention to women's concerns within government institutions and development agencies, including the setting up of women's units and the design of guidelines and action plans on women's issues. They also reflected on the factors that have contributed to such gains, including strong top-management support, strategic use of changes in political systems, and a "critical mass" of women within public institutions and in civil society organizations. However, speakers also expressed concern about the incremental pace of change. Questions were raised about the gains that could be made from the setting up of gender checklists and

guidelines aimed at "mainstreaming" gender when the overall policy environment, defined by the neo-liberal market agenda, effectively constrained progress towards gender equity.

40. As a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, UNRISD is preparing a paper analysing the Beijing Platform for Action. The paper will assess how far the Platform for Action — and debates at the Conference and NGO Forum — placed greater emphasis on economic issues, including macro-economic and trade policies, than did previous UN conferences on women. It will also consider the extent to which the Platform for Action provides tools of economic transformation towards more gender equitable macro-economic policy.

C. HABITAT II

41. As with other recent UN Conferences, UNRISD contributed to the substantive content of Habitat II (Istanbul, June 1996) by channelling research findings into the preparatory process and the "City Summit" itself. The research that UNRISD brought to the Habitat process derived from the Institute's continuing collaboration with UNV to understand better the roles and impacts of community and volunteer organizations in combating social problems in metropolitan areas as well as the constraints that such efforts face.

1. Social Integration at the Grassroots: The Urban or "Pavement" Dimension

42. This project was launched by UNRISD and UNV in mid-1994, to document and analyse the experiences of NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and volunteer groups in working with vulnerable or marginalized urban populations in 16 cities on four continents. Preliminary findings of the project were disseminated and debated at the Social Summit and were channelled into the preparatory process of Habitat II. One of the most important findings to emerge from the project was that people's organizations (CBOs, grassroots organizations and volunteer groups) see no future in permanent confrontation and competition with the state. Rather, they want a responsible and competent state at all levels — one that is responsive and accountable to the needs of all people. In many countries achieving this will require reforms that strengthen local governments in ways that enable them to become better partners with local communities in implementing bottom-up development strategies.

2. Volunteer Action and Local Democracy: A Partnership for a Better Urban Future

43. This second UNRISD-UNV multi-city action research project is taking place in five of the cities that were part of the previous project: Chicago, Johannesburg-Soweto, Lima, Mumbai and Sao Paulo. The project aims to identify the successes of, and constraints on, collaborations between CBOs and volunteer organizations, on one side, and local governments, on the other, in designing, implementing and evaluating social and economic policy at the local level, and to use this information to initiate and inform a dialogue among local actors about concrete ways of enhancing future collaborations of this kind. The collaborations that the project seeks to document are those that demonstrate an active, non-exploitative partnership between agencies of the government operating at the local level and community organizations. While Habitat II provided an occasion for initiating dialogues in a set of large cities on four continents, the main research phase will not be completed until late 1996.

44. Nonetheless, preliminary research findings were discussed at a project meeting in Istanbul just prior to Habitat II. The research suggests that true power sharing relationships between community organizations of marginal or vulnerable groups and local authorities are, in fact, rare. Many of the most positive collaborations appear to depend on the support of sympathetic officials, often in high places. Others often mask clientilist relationships and practices. The lack of institutional supports that buttress democratic state-civil society

relationships hampers the development of genuine partnerships between local authorities and vulnerable or marginalized groups. Even where strong community organizations do exist, collaborations with local authorities can often begin a process of co-optation from within the organization, particularly when the organization becomes saddled with responsibilities for delivering and managing "public services". The meeting outlined recommendations in three broad areas for enhancing the environment in which genuine collaborations can grow: institutionalization, capacity building and resources.

- **Activities at Habitat II**

45. During Habitat II UNRISD organized five events to disseminate the findings of different aspects of the above-mentioned projects. Three events took place at the NGO Forum, a fourth at the Gumussüyu Campus of Istanbul Technical University and the fifth in the Galata neighbourhood in Istanbul. The first two presented the provisional findings and recommendations of the project on **Volunteer Action and Local Democracy: A Partnership for a Better Urban Future**. The third discussed practices for building community planning capacities within poor people's organizations using action research methodologies. The Gumussüyu event highlighted the most "promising practices" among the cases examined in the project **Volunteer Action and Local Democracy: A Partnership for a Better Urban Future**. The final event was a practical demonstration of participatory planning that took place over a nine-day period in the Galata neighbourhood of central Istanbul. Both this event and the third session examining experiences in action research with low-income communities drew particularly on findings from the project on **Social Integration at the Grassroots: The Urban or "Pavement" Dimension**, with some of the project participants attending these events.

46. In addition to dissemination of findings through Habitat events, two Discussion Papers and two journal articles have appeared and several case studies are being reviewed for publication. It is expected that the main findings of the project **Volunteer Action and Local Democracy: A Partnership for a Better Urban Future** will be available during the second half of 1996 and a cross-country analysis and resumé of activities will be published in 1997 in an edited volume. As a follow-up to this project, UNRISD has proposed a series of efforts to monitor trends in the collaborations between local authorities and community organizations. This process will not only attempt to identify the number and nature of collaborations, but also to track the most important social, political and economic factors that condition the possibility for genuine collaborations between community organizations and local authorities.

CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH

A. THE CHALLENGE OF REBUILDING WAR-TORN SOCIETIES

1. War-torn Societies Project

47. The War-torn Societies Project (WSP) was jointly established by UNRISD and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS) of the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva) in 1994. The project responds to a growing recognition by the international community that current international assistance to post-conflict societies often fails to achieve its objective of rebuilding war-torn countries and consolidating peace. There is confusion about who in the international community carries out which tasks, who is responsible for what, and how subsequent policy responses relate to each other.

48. WSP aims to respond to the need for a holistic and co-ordinated approach to rebuilding. It encourages main external and internal actors (multilateral and bilateral donors, NGOs, national and local actors) in war-torn countries to analyse collectively, with the help of a local WSP research team, the complex interactions between peace-keeping, relief, rehabilitation and development activities, and to collectively identify novel and more

integrated policy responses. As actors participate in a strategic approach to rebuilding, they become aware that they have a stake in the coordination of their activities and integration of their policies, and extend their support.

49. Ensuring political and institutional support for the project requires developing and maintaining regular high level contacts and a keen sense of political interest. Two project mechanisms facilitate this political work. One mechanism is the bi-annual Periodic Donor Consultation Process (PDCP), which brings together representatives of main donors and actors in international assistance. There are now 19 governments and international organizations participating in the PDCP and another seven have expressed interest in joining in the near future. Another mechanism is the project's Senior Advisory Group (SAG) that consists of eminent persons knowledgeable in the field of post-conflict rebuilding. SAG and PDCP participants are active in applying the project's ideas in their own agencies/governments and circles. Inter-agency co-operation has been maintained, as WSP is playing an increasingly prominent role in various UN and international meetings and conferences.

50. Concretely, WSP country projects, set up in selected war-torn societies (Eritrea, Guatemala, Mozambique and Somalia), have established a mechanism (a Project Group) that provides a neutral forum for the main external and internal actors to meet. Collectively they choose pertinent rebuilding issues to discuss and analyse, thereby setting in motion a process that should result in improved policy integration and operational co-ordination. Research — carried out with local researchers — attempts to de-politicize the discussion by separating the technical aspects of the problem from the political and by providing the actors with a broader perspective on the issues. Field research is also meant to provide a local perspective on rebuilding.

- **Eritrea**

51. In February 1996, the Eritrean Project Group selected five entry points for in-depth study. Large sections of Eritrean society are still dependent on food aid. Research on **food security** will initially assess how insecure the food situation is and then examine those policies and programmes that have been developed to improve the situation and to facilitate the transition from food aid to food security.

52. A new regional administration has just been established as part of the ongoing democratization process. Research on **governance** will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Eritrean administration. Moreover, it will assess the institutional capacities to achieve the stated goals of broad participation of civil society in political decision-making.

53. The war inevitably had a serious and long-lasting effect on the **human resources** capacity of Eritrean society. The research will assess the existing capacities and development needs by interviewing selected public and private sector organizations.

54. The almost total destruction of the country's **infrastructure** is a major obstacle to rebuilding. Research on this entry point will first evaluate the present state of the infrastructure, and then concentrate on the impact of improved communication services, especially roads, telecommunications and energy supplies, on social and economic development.

55. Refugees and demobilized soldiers, many of whom have not yet been repatriated, constitute a significant part of the population. Research on **social reintegration of war-affected populations** aims to specify the nature and scope of the problem and to examine existing policies and programmes for various groups. Attention will also be given to the self-settled groups and strategies for their reintegration.

56. Working groups were set up around the selected entry points. Perhaps the most important achievement of the country project so far is that a positive group dynamic has been set in motion, with a broad range of internal and external actors assuming collective ownership and responsibility for the project. The final national workshop evaluating the results of this action-research project is planned for November 1996.

- **Mozambique**

57. At its meeting in June 1996, the Mozambican Project Group decided to focus its research on the reintegration of demobilized soldiers, decentralization and participation in local self-governance, the impact of structural adjustment on agriculture, and social communication in democracy and development. A workplan including meetings, research, reports and evaluation is foreseen until December 1996, when the final national workshop is scheduled to take place. By providing neutral space in which all major actors in Mozambique could discuss substantive issues of national concern, the WSP responded to a widely felt need for a regular national discussion forum.

- **Guatemala**

58. In April 1996, a Guatemalan senior scholar was hired to assess whether consensus exists among the main actors on the usefulness of a WSP country project, identify precisely the role the project could play, make suggestions for the practical set-up of the project, and propose a tentative programme and candidates for a WSP research team in Guatemala. Following his recommendations a WSP country project was formally established and field work was initiated in August 1996.

- **Somalia**

59. Somalia represents an especially difficult and challenging case, and preparatory investigations and consultations with relevant external and internal actors are particularly delicate and time consuming. Consultations held in March 1996 confirmed the potential importance of a WSP project in Somalia which could help focus the attention of internal and external actors on constructive rehabilitation programmes and, in time, exert a stabilizing influence. The sub-regional approach to Somalia, i.e. initiating WSP sub-projects in selected regions of Somalia, but within the larger framework of an all-Somalia WSP, was confirmed. Several subregions were identified as sufficiently stable and with conditions probably conducive to initiating WSP activities. Following the overall positive response expressed during these consultations, a mission is planned into north-east Somalia, the first sub-region selected, which should allow for testing the feasibility of the WSP approach in the field and reaching agreements with main actors present in the region.

60. Three types of publications have emerged from this project: an interactive newsletter, **The Challenge of Peace**, an Occasional paper series, and a monograph series. A series of short think-pieces, called **Perspectives**, is also planned. Two project data bases and an Internet site provide more efficient communication between institutions and individuals who are interested in the rebuilding of war-torn societies.

61. Final country project evaluations and a set of policy and operational recommendations will be produced by the country teams, in addition to a number of papers and reports from workshops and seminars, local testimonies, and thematic and historical studies. A final comparative overview report will also be produced during the evaluation phase of the project scheduled for the summer of 1997, by using data from the country projects as well as other research findings.

2. Vulnerability and Coping Strategies in Cambodia

62. This project consists of three independent studies on **Food Security**, **Psycho-Social Vulnerability** and **Development Strategy and the Cambodian State**.

- **Food Security in Cambodia**

63. This two-year study, carried out by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), examines the food security situation and coping strategies of vulnerable groups as well as institutional responses to food security issues. It also aims to strengthen research capacity within CDRI. The first phase was completed in December 1995.

64. The first phase report identifies the nature of contemporary food insecurity in Cambodia, arguing that access, rather than availability, is the key problem, and reveals the way in which a diverse range of agro-ecological, institutional, macro-economic, market, security and social-structural conditions affect food security at national and household levels. The report provides a brief assessment of what different agencies are — or are not — doing to address food insecurity, arguing that, although certain government and international agencies identify food security as a priority development issue, they have not put in place policies, programmes or projects that address directly or systematically food security problems.

65. Many agencies fail to consider the range of strategies and responses that most Cambodians have developed to help them overcome their food insecurities. The report recommends that external agencies contemplating food support systems to food-insecure populations, need first to consider how those groups themselves respond to food insecurity and with what success or constraints. In this way agency interventions might build on what food-insecure households are already doing to overcome their food insecurity.

- **Psycho-Social Vulnerability and Coping Mechanisms**

66. The purpose of this study, undertaken with the support and collaboration of IDRC and UNICEF, is to provide a preliminary assessment of (a) the relevance and appropriateness of Western psycho-therapeutic models based on certain notions of trauma, health, illness, vulnerable groups and childhood; (b) the range of factors that mediate the impact of conflict at the individual, family and community levels; (c) ways in which psycho-social distress may have affected the capacity of people to rebuild their lives; and (d) the nature of institutional responses to psycho-social vulnerability.

67. Preliminary conclusions emerging from the research suggest that the response of certain international agencies to psycho-social distress suffers from two major limitations. First, whereas several international development agencies claim to recognize the importance of the psycho-social impact of political violence as a development issue, they are unclear as to how it should be approached and continue to focus their attention and resources on conventional areas of development assistance and emergency relief. Second, many psycho-social interventions in Cambodia are based on universal assumptions and therapeutic interventions that derive from a Western cultural tradition dominated by biomedical models. These models tend to relegate psycho-social distress to individual functioning and concentrate on mental health problems, to the exclusion of social-structural and developmental issues.

68. While aid interventions in the context of emergencies tend to follow fairly standard formats, on the assumption that traumatic events have uniform effects and that victims' needs are the same, psycho-social responses to adversity vary considerably and both adults and children have access to a range of social and personal resources that can provide a degree of protection against distress or trauma. Work at the community level must take into account these resources and employ concepts of community that are meaningful to the people themselves rather than building on ideals drawn from elsewhere.

- **Development Strategy and the Cambodian State**

69. This study examines the extent to which the Cambodian state has been able to reassert control over the development process during the post-UNTAC era and improve the

co-ordination and delivery of development assistance. Research currently under way is examining issues associated with aid dependence, the degree to which Cambodians direct their own development process, how the political process and aid flows have affected the development of Cambodian institutions, as well as the changing role of both international and local NGOs.

B. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND WOMEN'S LIVES: INTEGRATING GENDER INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICY

70. The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of national researchers to analyse the way in which macro-economic policies impact on gender inequalities and to feed their findings into the policy formulation process. To realize this objective at the country level, the project seeks to initiate debate and consultation — "policy dialogue" — among gender researchers, representatives of civil society and policy-makers from mainline economic ministries. In order to sustain and inform these debates, the project sponsors research on the gender dimensions of key macro-economic policy concerns. During 1995 and 1996 the main action-research phases (II and III) of the project were initiated in the five participating countries: Bangladesh, Jamaica, Morocco, Uganda and Viet Nam.

• Sponsoring National Workshops

71. The project's second phase has sought to initiate a process of dialogue between gender researchers/advocates and national policy makers on the gender dimensions of selected areas of macro-economic policy. This signals a move away from the emphasis on projects and sectoral programmes, which have tended to be the traditional focus of gender interventions. The main challenge facing UNRISD and its national counterpart in each project country has been to set an agenda for the workshop that can be seen as a matter of real concern to a wide range of actors, especially policy makers. This has been a formidable challenge given the tendency within policy-making institutions to compartmentalize gender/women's issues apart from matters of "high" economic policy.

72. Between April 1995 and May 1996 national workshops were held in all five participating countries. The workshops brought together a wide range of national actors: representatives from the academic/research community, policy-making institutions, NGOs, women's groups and networks, as well as trade unions and employers' organizations. Thematically, the workshops can be grouped under two main headings. First, those in which the discussion centred around agricultural policies (growth strategies, poverty and employment issues); the Uganda and Viet Nam workshops fall into this category. Second, those that were predominantly concerned with industrialization and non-agricultural employment, especially in the export-oriented sectors; Bangladesh, Morocco and Jamaica would belong to this group.

73. To give the consultations more focus and direction, papers covering a range of related themes discussed at each workshop, were commissioned and distributed among the participants in advance. A summary report on phase II national workshops is being prepared for publication drawing on draft reports from each of the project countries.

• Action-Research — Strengthening the Policy Dialogue

74. The action-research component of the project (phase III) is designed to sustain the policy dialogues, initiated at the national workshops, by attempting to answer some of the key policy questions that were formulated during the consultations. To do so, a short, focused research phase has been designed in each country. Relevant parts of government and civil society institutions will be kept informed of the progress and the findings of this phase, and their reactions will be sought at regular intervals in an effort to make the research more responsive to the needs of policy-making.

75. The phase III research in **Morocco**, which is being carried out by Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Aziz Belal (CERAB), explores two interrelated sets of issues. First, it seeks to show the significance of organizational (factory level) and socio-cultural factors contributing to the creation of different occupational structures (division of labour, promotion and training prospects, wage levels) for male and female workers. Underpinning the research is the view that female subordination in the factory is not solely created by the world outside (education, training, domestic responsibilities, familial ideologies), but that there are concrete processes within the world of work itself that push male and female workers into different "career paths".

76. The second aim of the research is to explore the relation between models of industrial relations (and their wage structures) on the one hand, and export competitiveness on the other. The argument being made hinges on a different interpretation of the significance of wages to export competitiveness — one that sees wages not as a fixed, absolute component of production costs, but as a functional factor that influences production methods and productivity. In other words, the hypothesis being tested is that low wages and hierarchical industrial models encourage low productivity. The research project is exploring this hypothesis, focusing on the textile/clothing sector (carpets, knitwear and garment sub-sectors).

77. One major component of the research in **Bangladesh**, being carried out by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, concerns the casualization of the workforce in the export industries, in particular the causes and effects of non-unionization, as well as the intricate mechanisms through which gender hierarchies are re-constructed within a supposedly "gender-blind" labour market. The other component of the research programme seeks to elucidate th factors that influence household labour supply decisions. Many of the participants in formal industrial employment are young rural migrants yet there are no studies that look at the socio-economic forces and intra-household decision-making processes that underpin the movement of these young cohorts of women from their rural settings into urban areas — a novel experience for a society where strict rules of segregation continue to be enforced and adhered to.

78. The theme identified for phase III in **Viet Nam** is diversification of the rural household economy with specific attention to women's entrepreneurial activities. The research, undertaken by the Centre for Family and Women Studies (CFWS), will document the gender dimensions of the responses of rural households to new economic opportunities being provided by current policies to promote private enterpreneurship as part of Viet Nam's national programme of economic liberalization (*doi moi*). The research will explore how far the gender division of labour in different types of households (in terms of headship, age and gender composition, and asset holdings) explains their differential ability to respond to such incentives.

79. Phase III research in **Uganda** is also concerned with the gender dimensions of recent agricultural policy. Increased national and household income is being sought through policies to boost agricultural productivity and foster off-farm employment. More specifically, agricultural growth strategies include technological improvement, agricultural diversification (in particular, non-traditional export crops), promotion of agro-processing and institutional reform (including credit institutions). Through a series of in-depth field level studies, phase III research seeks to investigate how far current macro-economic policies redress, aggravate or perpetuate gender inequity and the implications of this inequity for agricultural productivity and poverty reduction. The research is being co-ordinated by the Agricultural Policy Secretariat, which, in recognition of the importance of the issues under investigation, encouraged the expansion of the original scope of the project and pledged additional funding to make this possible.

80. Phase III in **Jamaica** will take the form of a gender training workshop for senior officers in the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), which is specifically responsible for strengthening the planning capability of the Government. With the support of a gender

economist, the training team will assist staff of the PIOJ to develop skills for undertaking gender analyses of selected macro-economic and sectoral policies. Following the workshop, periodic evaluation will assess the impact of the gender training on the work of the PIOJ.

81. An international workshop entitled **Working Towards a More Gender Equitable Macro-economic Agenda**, to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-28 November 1996, is being planned to conclude the action-research phase of the project. UNRISD, UNDP and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, will jointly organize the workshop. Following the workshop, UNRISD will prepare a report documenting the overall project findings, and the substantive issues highlighted during the workshop proceedings.

82. Building on the work that was initiated by the project, the Institute is also developing a new research programme on gender and poverty. The aim of the proposed project would be to contribute to the ongoing debates on the gender dimensions of poverty through comparative country level research, with the explicit purpose of providing a more solid basis for the integration of gender issues within poverty analyses and policies.

C. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

1. Social and Political Dimensions of Environmental Protection Programmes and Projects

83. This project seeks to examine how different interest groups facilitate, obstruct or otherwise shape the design and implementation of environmental policy and projects in developing countries; how environmental protection schemes affect the livelihood of different social groups at the local level; and how conservation programmes and projects might achieve a better balance between environmental and human welfare objectives. Research is being conducted in Costa Rica, the Philippines and Senegal.

84. During 1995 and 1996, field work on local level project experiences was completed and draft case study reports were prepared by researchers from the Universidad Nacional (UNA) in Costa Rica, the Institute of Environmental Science and Management (IESAM) in the Philippines, and the Ecole Nationale d'Economie Apliquée (ENEA) in Senegal. Workshops were held in Costa Rica and the Philippines to discuss the preliminary research findings.

85. The research has examined, in particular, the experience of "participatory" or community-based resource management approaches to forest protection, tree planting and soil conservation. The findings highlight the way in which social and political factors often intervene to block or subvert the implementation of environmental policy, legislation, programmes and projects. Several case studies stress the problems of mistrust between local resource users and external agents, token or "technocratic" participation, weak community organization, unaccountable leadership, weak or socially biased bureaucratic structures, corruption and the influence of local élites. The research has also confirmed the idea that the route to sustainable resource management is via the defence of livelihood. Unless there is a close integration of environmental and livelihood objectives, environmental protection programmes and projects run a high risk of failure.

86. What emerges clearly from the research is that there are few short-cuts to promoting participation and sustainable resource management. External agencies often operate with time frames that are unrealistically short. Key elements of project success, such as building trust between local stakeholders and external agents, consolidating community organization and developing a sense of community ownership of the project, can require considerable time and effort.

87. The research in the Philippines, for instance, has highlighted the dangers of "mainstreaming" participation in decision-making and consultation processes too early, i.e.

before local positions on specific issues have been clearly articulated and community organization and local leadership have been consolidated. The drive on the part of many agencies to promote participation has often resulted in situations where ill-prepared representatives of communities attend meetings in which they are overwhelmed by both the personalities present and the discourse that is used. The capacity of community organizations to exert pressure and influence on decision-making processes is often greater when they mobilize and intervene on a more spontaneous and ad hoc basis, focusing their attention on a specific issue of immediate concern or targeting a particular individual or institution.

88. The influx of foreign aid for environmental protection also seems to be having another contradictory effect. As NGOs find themselves on the receiving end of large amounts of international support they have concentrated their efforts in more localized or bureaucratic activities associated, for example, with training, community organization, administration and fund raising. Relatively few resources are channelled towards advocacy work or monitoring the implementation of environmental policy, laws and programmes.

89. The final country reports should be submitted during the latter half of 1996 and a project synthesis report prepared by early 1997. It is expected that two of the country studies will be published in book form.

2. The Social and Environmental Impact of National Parks and Protected Areas in Developing Countries

90. This project, which had the objective of assessing critically the socio-economic and environmental implications of the establishment of parks and reserves in developing countries, has now come to an end. Research teams carried out case studies in Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Peru and Southern Africa (Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and reports of their findings are under preparation.

91. Substantial progress has been made in the preparation of thematic studies under the project, six of which have appeared as Discussion Papers. Two of them evaluate various proposals for ecotourism and community participation in Southern Africa and conclude that tourism can be a useful tool for improving rural livelihoods — but only if serious efforts are made to address obstacles that inhibit genuine community participation.

92. A third Discussion Paper, examining the relationship between indigenous peoples and protected areas, argues that conservationists have put the preservation of nature above the interests of indigenous peoples. This paper has been published in English, French and Spanish. The relationship between conservation and social development based on an investigation of panda reserves in China is explored in a fourth Discussion Paper. It concludes that appropriate conservation policies can make a significant contribution to basic needs provisioning, livelihood security, social cohesion and popular participation. A fifth Discussion Paper on people's participation in protected areas management argues that new participatory approaches that support local livelihood interests are urgently needed.

93. The relationship between biodiversity and human welfare is the theme covered by a sixth Discussion Paper, which emphasizes that not all social groups stand to benefit from biodiversity protection measures, especially the weaker ones. A report on protected areas in France has been accepted for publication by l'Harmattan, Paris. Based on case studies of the Cévennes and Pilat protected areas and available secondary material, the report looks at the role of protected areas in supporting work, strengthening culture and protecting vital ecosystems in rural areas.

94. A major synthesis volume summarizing both the preliminary research results of the case studies and the thematic studies has been completed and accepted for publication by Earthscan. This report contains results from case studies from industrialized and developing

countries and indicates how protected areas could be managed in a more balanced manner by integrating social and ecological exigencies.

PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

A. PUBLICATIONS

95. Over the past two years UNRISD has maintained its emphasis on producing diverse high quality publications - books, monographs, Discussion Papers, Occasional Papers, conference reports and newsletters. A total of 30 books have been co-published and another 16 manuscripts are in press with commercial or academic publishing houses. States of Disarray has been translated into Arabic, Chinese and Korean.

96. Twenty-one Discussion Papers were published and seven more are forthcoming. Nine Occasional Papers and four Briefing Papers appeared as part of the UNRISD series for the Social Summit. Seven Occasional Papers have been published as part of the series on gender prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and another is forthcoming. The first Occasional Paper of the War-torn Societies Project is also now available. Two monographs and one conference report were brought out during the past two years.

97. The bi-annual **UNRISD Social Development News** remains an important means of disseminating information about UNRISD publications and activities. In addition, two project newsletters — **The Challenge of Peace** and **FOCUS on Integrating Gender into the Politics of Development** — continue to be issued. The Institute also has a new publications catalogue, which offers a complete list of UNRISD publications since 1985.

B. DISSEMINATION

98. Publications, the specialized and mass media, electronic media, workshops and conferences continue to be important and effective means of informing researchers, teachers, policy makers and development agencies about the work of UNRISD.

99. Over the last year emphasis was placed on disseminating UNRISD publications to a wider audience as well as to target groups. The Institute enlarged its readership by preparing several new mailing lists and at the same time attempted to target specific groups in conjunction with activities of the Social Summit, the Fourth World Conference on Women and Habitat II. Certain publications are also sent to a number of policy makers, relevant heads of United Nations agencies and related international organizations and NGO networks.

100. The specialized media continue to provide important coverage for UNRISD work. Press releases in English, French and Spanish about every in-house and commercial publication and international seminar were produced and disseminated by UNRISD to the specialized media along with review copies of publications when appropriate. Over the past two years, 80 journals, newsletters and daily newspapers published 475 short articles or listings about UNRISD publications, conferences and research results.

101. The Institute has established UNRISD and the War-torn Societies Project Home Pages on the Internet. The power of this new means of communication is attested to by the nearly 13,000 "hits" recorded in the first two months since the Home Pages went on-line. The UNRISD publications catalogue also went on-line in September 1996 allowing users to search on subject or keyword and to order publications through the Internet.

102. In addition to traditional printed directories, listings about the Institute's work were carried in electronic abstract and data base collections. Co-publishers with on-line catalogues, including The Brookings Institution, Oxford University Press and Routledge, promoted UNRISD publications via the World Wide Web.

ADVISORY AND CONSULTANCY WORK

103. In addition to their ongoing research and administrative activities, UNRISD staff members are increasingly called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, NGOs research institutes and universities. Work of this nature provides UNRISD with opportunities to make substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups. At the same time, staff members benefit from possibilities created by such advisory work, not only for the exchange of ideas, but also in terms of networking, identifying potential researchers, and exploring funding opportunities.

104. Advisory work takes many different forms: co-ordinating research projects; preparing or commenting on reports and papers; developing new programmes and evaluating existing ones; acting as resource persons; and serving as committee or board members. UNRISD staff members are also regularly invited to act as keynote speakers, lecturers, discussants and resource persons at conferences, workshops and seminars hosted by other institutions and groups. While most advisory work is done on an informal basis, in some cases the Institute is contracted by other institutions to carry out specific tasks.

105. In recent years the Institute has, for example, carried out advisory work for multilateral institutions such as UNESCO, UNEP, WHO and the World Bank, on the following issues: culture and development, rural development and the environment, health and development, and capacity building in Africa. The Institute has also advised UNDP on the contents of the **Human Development Report** for 1996 and 1997. As regards bilaterals and national governments, UNRISD staff members have: advised the Sida Task Force on Poverty, advised Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) on follow-up to the Social Summit; and advised the Government of South Africa on relations with international agencies. As concerns NGOs, UNRISD staff has advised Oxfam on economic restructuring; advised the South Centre on issues of economic liberalization; and served as resource person to the WWF's Biodiversity and Protected Areas Division.

106. Another important feature of UNRISD's advisory work is the support requested by specialized journals and publishers. In addition to providing editorial advice and evaluating manuscripts for approximately 14 journals and newsletters, staff members have served as members of the editorial board for six journals.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

107. Although part of the United Nations system, UNRISD finances all of its activities by voluntary contributions from governments, international development agencies and foundations. In 1995/1996, a total of 25 bilateral and multilateral agencies and foundations contributed to the Institute's financing.

108. The overall financial situation of the Institute remains satisfactory as total resources available have grown in step with the Institute's research programme, at approximately the rate of 20 per cent per annum — 28 per cent in 1996. The 1995-1996 fiscal year was the second year in a row that both core and project funding increased.

109. Despite these successes, the funding situation for 1997 is uncertain, as a three-year grant from the Institute's major donors, and two long-term projects — accounting for approximately one-fifth of the Institute's total funding over the last four years — are drawing to a close in 1996. The share of core funds as a proportion of total expenditure has continued its downward trend since 1990, temporarily reversed in 1995. It has now fallen to 35 per cent compared to 78 per cent in 1990. This is a disquieting trend as it greatly reduces the flexibility so necessary for innovative research.